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Governor Burton M. Cross and Senator Margaret Chase Smith, Excerpts from Campaign Comments

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Transcript of a sound recording in MS 608, WLBZ Radio Station Records, Bangor, Maine, 1931-1973

Title: Governor Burton M. Cross and Senator Margaret Chase Smith, Excerpts from Campaign

Comments

Date: 1954

Recording number: Reel-to-reel Tape 6, part 1

Length of recording: 3:28

[transcript begins]

BURTON M. CROSS: I would like to quote to you an opening paragraph of my inaugural message of two years ago. It is as true today as it was then. Quote, "It has always been my desire to see government as close to the people as possible. The delicate balance between local and state responsibility should be carefully and constantly maintained. I feel strongly that a businessman's approach to government is not only vital and ideal but it should be, with certain limitations, achieved. [A few seconds of silence]

And now, with your indulgence, I would like to go over with you some of the major achievements of the past few years and some of the problems that you may consider settled for the moment. Although changing economic conditions may require their adjustment in the future. First, today, the state of Maine is in an excellent financial condition. With an estimated surplus of over 7 millions of dollars in the general fund at the end of this fiscal year, \$2,000,000 in the highway fund surplus. There is no bond or debt at the general fund level. There is working capital of \$2,000,000 in the general fund. There is working capital of \$2,000,000 in the Liquor Commission account. There is invested trust funds of nearly 70 millions of dollars in the various activities of state government. There is, within indicated revenue, in my opinion, ample funds for the economical administration of state government over the next two years. No new tax burden designed to meet the needs of political expediency should have any place in the historically sound financing of the state of Maine. There is in the general fund surplus sufficient funds for sound capital improvements and expansion of our state institutions. I advocated and the 96 legislature agreed on a long range building program for educational, correctional, and penal institutions. Over 9 millions of dollars were allocated and are in the process of construction at the present time, including the state office building and the liquor warehouse.

MARGARET CHASE SMITH: The candidates for United States Senator are important only for what they symbolize. Each of us symbolizes something to the Maine voters. My supporters say that I am a symbol of decency and honesty in government and against intervention by rich outsiders. They say that the issue is simple and clear that the choice is one way or the other. And with respectful humility, I must say that they are right. Yes, I want to win for true and loyal Maine people who have refused to sell their votes for oil money, who have courageously resisted political intimidation, who have denounced and fought smears, and who have put their hearts and souls into my campaign because they were convinced that I was their symbol of protest against such things.

[transcript ends]

For more information about this transcript, audio recording, or other materials in Special Collections at the University of Maine, contact:

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